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way would be a matter of much time and care, but the same is true of observations recorded in the usual manner.

We wish that a number of copies of this interesting brochure could be placed on sale at the Naturalists' Agency, so that our ornithologists might have the opportunity of acquainting themselves with the merits of the record, and consider the propriety of adopting the system. — E. C.

BOTANY.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF COMPOSITÆ. — Mr. G. Bentham read a paper on this subject at two recent meetings of the Linnæan Society, in continuation of his paper on the structure of the same order of plants (*Academy*, vol. iii. p. 73). The genera and species of this largest order of flowering plants are about equally distributed between the Old and New World; of the genera about 410 are found in the former and 430 in the latter; of species, about 4400 in the Old World and a rather larger number in the New. Not quite 70 species are common to the two hemispheres, and these mostly belong to the extreme northern regions; a few are common to New Zealand and Antarctic America; not more than a dozen tropical species are found in both the Old and New World, and some of these are coast plants. The form which Mr. Bentham looks on as prototypic, and possibly ancestral to the whole order, includes a few closely allied genera, distinguished by their regular corolla, belonging rather more to the American than the Old World distribution, being found in Chili, with an outlying genus in St. Helena. Other types, apparently of great antiquity, are found in Africa, Australia, and Western America. Since the separation of the Indo-Malayan and Australian regions from one another, there appears to have been a continuity of races of Compositæ across the tropics from south to north. The paper, which enters exhaustively into the distribution of the various tribes and more important genera, will be published in the "Journal of the Linnæan Society." — *Academy*.

THE COLORING MATTER OF FUNGI. — Mr. W. C. Sorby has communicated to "Nature" a series of observations on the coloring matters of the fungi found in his own neighborhood (Sheffield in Yorkshire). So far he has been able to determine, by means of their optical and other properties, the existence of at least thirty distinct coloring matters, and he believes the number will be eventually larger. The majority of fungi contain at least two and many contain several different colored substances which can be separated or perfectly well distinguished. Fully twenty have such well-marked optical characters that they could be recognized without difficulty in other plants; but of these only one is known to occur in any plant not a fungus. This is the fine orange color, soluble in bi-sulphide of carbon, found in *Calocera viscosa*, which agrees perfectly with the more orange-colored xanthophyll of some faded leaves, and of the exterior layer of the root of the carrot. Closely allied species sometimes contain two different kinds of coloring matter in common, but very often one or more differ; while at the same time species belonging to somewhat widely separated genera are occasionally colored by identical substances. Notwithstanding this, on the whole, there appears to be a very decided connection between the general organization of the plant and the particular kind of coloring-matter developed in it.— A. W. B.

NEW STATIONS OF RARE PLANTS.—*Saxifraga aizoides.* Warsaw Glen, Wyoming Co., N. Y. Very abundant high up on shaded, wet rocks. (Genesee Shales.) Also on the west bank of the Genesee River at Portage, Wyoming Co., N. Y. between the middle and lower falls where it occurs, for nearly a mile, on the high cliffs. Found also on the Gardeau Bluffs (425 ft. high) still further down the river.

Lythrum Salicaria. Marshes at the head of Cayuga Lake.

Primula Mistassinica. South bank of Fall Creek, Ithaca, just below the Triphammer Fall, — abundant.

Pinguicula vulgaris. — With the preceding, and also in several places on Cascadilla Creek, Ithaca.

Sisymbrium canescens. Enfield Glen, Tompkins Co.; Watkins Glen, Schuyler Co., N. Y.

Phlox subulata. Everywhere about Ithaca. Also on the Gardeau Bluffs, Wyoming Co., N. Y.

Sedum ternatum. A few specimens in the glen of Six Mile Creek, Ithaca — obviously indigenous.—D. S. JORDAN, *Instructor in Botany, Cornell University.*

ZOOLOGY.

A RARE ANIMAL.—On Saturday, February 17, 1872, there was brought to me an animal I had never seen before, and which I thought was new to this region. In general appearance it very